



# WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORT

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## Assistive Technology Part II

This is the last article of series of two articles.



The principles of 5 As & Q

- Availability
- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Adaptability
- Acceptability
- Quality

### Challenges Policy

There are only a few countries have developed a national assistive technology policy or programme. Even in high-income countries, assistive products are often rationed or not included in health and welfare schemes. Those who can afford them often purchase items from pharmacies, private clinics, or workshops. In these scenarios, people often are not taught how to use the product safely and lack access to follow-up appointments. Furthermore, assistive technology services are often not integrated across all the levels of care, from primary to tertiary.

### Awareness

AT is a rapidly developing area therefore there is a considerable variation in how AT

### How do you choose the right assistive technology?

Most often, the choice is a decision you make with a team of professionals and consultants trained to match particular assistive technologies to specific needs. An AT team may include family doctors, regular and special education teachers, speech-language therapists, rehabilitation professionals, occupational therapists, and other specialists including consulting representatives from companies that manufacture assistive technology.

As per UNICEF following factors need to be considered when providing the AT

| Contents  | Page |
|---|------|
| 1. Assistive Technology Part II   | 1    |
| 2. Summary of selected notifiable diseases reported (18 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)   | 3    |
| 3. Surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases & AFP (18 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2022) | 4    |

WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORT SRI LANKA 2022

is used in the care of patients. Often this may be because professionals, patients and carers have limited knowledge of ATs and how they may be of benefit. Given that, it is important for professionals to be aware of them and how they can be used by the right person.

**Limitations**

It is important to note that ATs may not suit everyone. Each person has to be assessed and their needs, abilities and preferences are taken into account. If the AT cannot meet the patient’s needs and preferences it may not be beneficial to the patient or may even cause distress. Psychological barriers and stigma in using assistive devices are other issues to be considered.

**Financial difficulties**

Financial difficulties are the main challenge to accessing assistive products. People from the poorer sectors of society frequently rely on donations or charitable services, which often focus on the provision of large quantities of substandard or used products. These are often not appropriate for the user.

**Solutions**

**Increase awareness**

General awareness of the use of ATs could be raised among healthcare professionals by incorporating this into undergraduate and postgraduate education, and through the development of websites for professionals. Health care workers can increase awareness of ATs among patients and carers by discussing them during consultations and giving out information in the form of a leaflet, or signposting to the AT resources.

**National policy framework**

A national policy framework for assistive technology is needed to ensure equitable access to assistive technology. To have the maximum possible impact, the APL needs to be supported with additional policy and legislation. In addition, provision needs to be enhanced, especially through the integration of services with the health

system

**Product development**

This should be encouraged through incentive schemes that support and promote affordable assistive products. A list of priority assistive products at the national level is encouraged and the list should be contextual and based on the country’s unique needs. Health and welfare insurance programmes can be considered as a source of financing mechanisms.

**Promote access**

To improve access to high-quality affordable assistive products globally, the GATE initiative focuses on five inter-linked areas (5P):

- People** (should be a user-centred approach)
- Policy** (involves tools that support countries in developing national policy and programmes )
- Products** (involves the APL list)
- Provision** (integration of services into the health system)
- Personnel** (proper assessment, fitting, user training and follow-up)

**References**

[https://www.who.int/health-topics/assistive-technology#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/assistive-technology#tab=tab_1)  
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[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270676625\\_Assistive\\_technologies\\_to\\_maximise\\_independence\\_in\\_people\\_with\\_dementia](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270676625_Assistive_technologies_to_maximise_independence_in_people_with_dementia)



[tion/270676625 Assistive technologies to maximise independence in people with dementia](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270676625_Assistive_technologies_to_maximise_independence_in_people_with_dementia)  
 Estimating need and coverage for five priority assistive products: A systematic review of global population-based research *BMJ* Jan 2022

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**Table 1: Selected notifiable diseases reported by Medical Officers of Health 18th- 24th Jun 2022 (25th Week)**

| RDHS             | Dengue Fever |              | Dysentery |            | Encephaliti |           | Enteric Fever |           | Food Poi- |            | Leptospirosis |             | Typhus   |            | Viral Hep- |           | Human    |           | Chickenpox |            | Meningitis |            | Leishmania- |             | WRCD      |           |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|-------------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
|                  | A            | B            | A         | B          | A           | B         | A             | B         | A         | B          | A             | B           | A        | B          | A          | B         | A        | B         | A          | B          | A          | B          | A           | B           | T*        | C**       |
| Colombo          | 58           | 5291         | 0         | 2          | 0           | 3         | 0             | 0         | 0         | 5          | 4             | 84          | 0        | 0          | 0          | 2         | 0        | 0         | 1          | 16         | 0          | 4          | 0           | 2           | 14        | 97        |
| Gampaha          | 17           | 3312         | 0         | 4          | 0           | 1         | 0             | 0         | 12        | 4          | 77            | 0           | 0        | 1          | 6          | 0         | 2        | 0         | 0          | 21         | 0          | 20         | 0           | 20          | 5         | 76        |
| Kalutara         | 14           | 1859         | 1         | 7          | 0           | 1         | 0             | 1         | 6         | 10         | 182           | 0           | 2        | 0          | 2          | 0         | 2        | 0         | 1          | 32         | 0          | 14         | 0           | 1           | 2         | 100       |
| Kandy            | 21           | 1660         | 0         | 12         | 0           | 0         | 0             | 2         | 4         | 4          | 72            | 1           | 20       | 1          | 7          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 32         | 0          | 4          | 0           | 13          | 11        | 99        |
| Matale           | 61           | 422          | 1         | 2          | 0           | 0         | 0             | 0         | 0         | 0          | 2             | 60          | 0        | 3          | 0          | 1         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 9          | 0          | 1          | 4           | 183         | 17        | 100       |
| NuwarEliya       | 10           | 104          | 0         | 13         | 0           | 0         | 0             | 1         | 0         | 0          | 33            | 0           | 10       | 1          | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 5          | 22         | 0          | 2          | 0           | 0           | 20        | 98        |
| Galle            | 15           | 1832         | 0         | 5          | 0           | 0         | 0             | 0         | 0         | 16         | 221           | 0           | 11       | 0          | 2          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 2          | 38         | 1          | 12         | 0           | 0           | 11        | 99        |
| Hambantota       | 53           | 566          | 0         | 24         | 0           | 0         | 0             | 0         | 2         | 8          | 101           | 0           | 21       | 0          | 3          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 1          | 16         | 0          | 6          | 0           | 241         | 17        | 98        |
| Matara           | 82           | 717          | 0         | 10         | 0           | 0         | 0             | 0         | 0         | 7          | 132           | 0           | 6        | 0          | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 2          | 19         | 0          | 6          | 1           | 160         | 28        | 100       |
| Jaiffna          | 67           | 2080         | 2         | 25         | 0           | 2         | 1             | 53        | 0         | 24         | 18            | 3           | 399      | 0          | 5          | 0         | 4        | 4         | 2          | 65         | 0          | 8          | 0           | 0           | 64        | 88        |
| Kilinochchi      | 4            | 83           | 0         | 4          | 0           | 0         | 0             | 0         | 18        | 0          | 11            | 0           | 8        | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 4          | 0          | 0          | 0           | 1           | 33        | 100       |
| Mannar           | 4            | 163          | 0         | 1          | 0           | 0         | 0             | 0         | 0         | 0          | 2             | 15          | 0        | 3          | 0          | 2         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 5          | 0          | 15         | 0           | 0           | 21        | 78        |
| Vavuniya         | 0            | 53           | 0         | 0          | 0           | 1         | 0             | 2         | 0         | 0          | 12            | 0           | 1        | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 5          | 0          | 0          | 0           | 2           | 3         | 79        |
| Mullaitivu       | 4            | 39           | 0         | 3          | 0           | 0         | 0             | 2         | 0         | 3          | 20            | 0           | 5        | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 4          | 1          | 1          | 0           | 1           | 24        | 96        |
| Batticaloa       | 29           | 857          | 0         | 44         | 0           | 6         | 0             | 0         | 17        | 0          | 27            | 0           | 0        | 0          | 1          | 0         | 1        | 0         | 7          | 34         | 2          | 14         | 0           | 1           | 37        | 100       |
| Ampara           | 8            | 96           | 0         | 7          | 0           | 1         | 0             | 0         | 17        | 0          | 70            | 0           | 1        | 0          | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 34         | 2          | 14         | 0           | 12          | 10        | 98        |
| Trincomalee      | 20           | 927          | 0         | 22         | 0           | 0         | 0             | 1         | 0         | 2          | 17            | 0           | 3        | 0          | 4          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 1          | 29         | 0          | 4          | 0           | 0           | 18        | 86        |
| Kurunegala       | 86           | 1442         | 0         | 9          | 0           | 1         | 0             | 0         | 4         | 5          | 81            | 0           | 18       | 0          | 0          | 0         | 1        | 1         | 1          | 36         | 0          | 19         | 16          | 270         | 8         | 97        |
| Puttalam         | 34           | 1126         | 0         | 3          | 0           | 0         | 0             | 0         | 0         | 0          | 13            | 0           | 6        | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 6          | 0          | 17         | 0           | 4           | 15        | 90        |
| Anuradhapur      | 13           | 205          | 0         | 8          | 1           | 2         | 0             | 1         | 0         | 5          | 7             | 109         | 0        | 16         | 0          | 2         | 0        | 1         | 1          | 28         | 0          | 23         | 2           | 218         | 9         | 87        |
| Polonnaruwa      | 9            | 67           | 0         | 4          | 0           | 0         | 0             | 0         | 1         | 7          | 65            | 0           | 0        | 0          | 2          | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 8          | 0          | 3          | 5           | 212         | 16        | 86        |
| Badulla          | 51           | 575          | 0         | 11         | 0           | 1         | 0             | 0         | 5         | 2          | 110           | 0           | 27       | 4          | 77         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 3          | 32         | 0          | 8          | 2           | 14          | 14        | 100       |
| Monaragala       | 23           | 218          | 0         | 5          | 0           | 1         | 0             | 4         | 0         | 2          | 195           | 3           | 17       | 1          | 27         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 0          | 36         | 0          | 22         | 1           | 79          | 9         | 100       |
| Ratnapura        | 84           | 1277         | 1         | 26         | 0           | 5         | 1             | 3         | 0         | 24         | 486           | 0           | 12       | 0          | 14         | 0         | 0        | 0         | 3          | 42         | 0          | 25         | 4           | 119         | 13        | 94        |
| Kegalle          | 11           | 1061         | 1         | 8          | 0           | 5         | 0             | 1         | 0         | 5          | 31            | 288         | 1        | 11         | 0          | 3         | 0        | 0         | 2          | 57         | 2          | 28         | 2           | 14          | 8         | 100       |
| Kalmune          | 31           | 570          | 1         | 23         | 0           | 0         | 1             | 1         | 0         | 5          | 1             | 14          | 0        | 1          | 1          | 1         | 0        | 0         | 1          | 31         | 4          | 21         | 0           | 0           | 30        | 100       |
| <b>SRI LANKA</b> | <b>20</b>    | <b>26602</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>282</b> | <b>1</b>    | <b>30</b> | <b>3</b>      | <b>72</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>161</b> | <b>16</b>     | <b>2513</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>601</b> | <b>9</b>   | <b>16</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>26</b>  | <b>634</b> | <b>11</b>  | <b>300</b> | <b>37</b>   | <b>1567</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>94</b> |

Source: Weekly Returns of Communicable Diseases (esurveillance.epid.gov.lk). T=Timeliness refers to returns received on or before 24th June, 2022 Total number of reporting units 361 Number of reporting units data provided for the current week: 308 C\*\*-

**Table 2: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases & AFP** **18<sup>th</sup>– 24<sup>th</sup> Jun 2022 (25<sup>th</sup> Week)**

| Disease               | No. of Cases by Province |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     | Number of cases during current week in 2022 | Number of cases during same week in 2021 | Total number of cases to date in 2022 | Total number of cases to date in 2021 | Difference between the number of cases to date in 2022 & 2021 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|---|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
|                       | W                        | C  | S  | N  | E  | NW | NC | U  | Sab |   |  |                                       |                                       |   |
| AFP*                  | 02                       | 01 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 01 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 04  | 00                                       | 43                                    | 23                                    | 86.9 %  |
| Diphtheria            | 00                       | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 00  | 00                                       | 00                                    | 00                                    | 0 %   |
| Mumps                 | 00                       | 00 | 00 | 00 | 01 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 01  | 01                                       | 32                                    | 45                                    | - 34.8 %  |
| Measles               | 00                       | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 00  | 00                                       | 12                                    | 10                                    | 20 %  |
| Rubella               | 00                       | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 00  | 00                                       | 00                                    | 00                                    | 0 %   |
| CRS**                 | 00                       | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 00  | 00                                       | 00                                    | 00                                    | 0 %   |
| Tetanus               | 00                       | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 00  | 00                                       | 05                                    | 02                                    | 150 %   |
| Neonatal Tetanus      | 00                       | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 00  | 00                                       | 00                                    | 00                                    | 0 %   |
| Japanese Encephalitis | 00                       | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 00  | 00                                       | 01                                    | 00                                    | 0 %   |
| Whooping Cough        | 00                       | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 00  | 00                                       | 01                                    | 00                                    | 0 %   |
| Tuberculosis          | 00                       | 19 | 20 | 10 | 03 | 07 | 34 | 13 | 23  | 129   | 11                                       | 3032                                  | 2591                                  | 17.0 %  |

**Key to Table 1 & 2**

**Provinces:** W: Western, C: Central, S: Southern, N: North, E: East, NC: North Central, NW: North Western, U: Uva, Sab: Sabaragamuwa.  
**RDHS Divisions:** CB: Colombo, GM: Gampaha, KL: Kalutara, KD: Kandy, ML: Matale, NE: Nuwara Eliya, GL: Galle, HB: Hambantota, MT: Matara, JF: Jaffna, KN: Killinochchi, MN: Mannar, VA: Vavuniya, MU: Mullaitivu, BT: Batticaloa, AM: Ampara, TR: Trincomalee, KM: Kalmunai, KR: Kurunegala, PU: Puttalam, AP: Anuradhapura, PO: Polonnaruwa, BD: Badulla, MO: Moneragala, RP: Ratnapura, KG: Kegalle.  
**Data Sources:**  
**Weekly Return of Communicable Diseases:** Diphtheria, Measles, Tetanus, Neonatal Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, Meningitis, Mumps., Rubella, CRS,  
**Special Surveillance:** AFP\* (Acute Flaccid Paralysis), Japanese Encephalitis  
**CRS\*\*** =Congenital Rubella Syndrome  
**NA** = Not Available

Number of Malaria Cases Up to End of June 2022,

# 02

All are Imported!!!

Comments and contributions for publication in the WER Sri Lanka are welcome. However, the editor reserves the right to accept or reject items for publication. All correspondence should be mailed to The Editor, WER Sri Lanka, Epidemiological Unit, P.O. Box 1567, Colombo or sent by E-mail to [chepid@sltnet.lk](mailto:chepid@sltnet.lk). **Prior approval should be obtained from the Epidemiology Unit before publishing data in this publication**

**ON STATE SERVICE**

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